

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A card comprising:
first and second opposite major surfaces and a perimeter edge surface,
5 and at least one communication marking provided on at least a portion of the perimeter edge surface.
2. The card of claim 1, wherein the perimeter edge surface comprises a top edge surface, and the communication marking is provided on at least a portion of the top
10 edge surface.
3. The card of claim 1, comprising a plurality of the communication markings.
- 15 4. The card of claim 3, wherein the communication markings comprise a bar code.
5. The card of claim 1, wherein the communication marking comprises a number, a letter, or a symbol.
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6. The card of claim 1, wherein the communication marking is formed from non-visible ink.
7. The card of claim 6, wherein the non-visible ink comprises UV or IR ink.
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8. The card of claim 1, wherein the communication marking is visible to the naked eye.
9. The card of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first or second major
30 surfaces contains card holder information.

10. An identity document, comprising:
first and second opposite major surfaces and a perimeter edge surface,
and at least one communication marking provided on at least a portion of the first major
5 surface, the second major surface, or the perimeter edge surface, and the communication
marking being formed from a non-visible ink.

11. The identity document of claim 10, wherein the perimeter edge surface
comprises a top edge surface, and the communication marking is provided on at least a
10 portion of the top edge surface of the perimeter edge surface.

12. The identity document of claim 10, wherein the communication marking
is provided on at least a portion of the first major surface.

13. The identity document of claim 10, comprising a plurality of the
communication markings.

14. The identity document of claim 13, wherein the communication
markings comprise a bar code.
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15. The identity document of claim 10, wherein the communication marking
comprises a number, a letter, or a symbol.

16. The identity document of claim 10, wherein the non-visible ink
25 comprises UV or IR ink.

17. The identity document of claim 10, wherein the document comprises a
card containing card holder information or a passport.

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18. A method of creating a verifiable identity document, comprising:
providing an identity document having first and second opposite major
surfaces and a perimeter edge surface; and
forming at least one communication marking on at least a portion of the
5 perimeter edge surface.

19. The method of claim 18, comprising forming a plurality of
communication markings on at least a portion of the perimeter edge surface.

10 20. The method of claim 18, wherein forming the communication marking
comprises forming a bar code on at least a portion of the perimeter edge surface.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein forming the communication marking
comprises printing the communication marking on the perimeter edge surface.
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22. The method of claim 21, wherein printing the communication marking
comprises printing the marking using non-visible ink.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of providing comprises
20 providing a plastic card.

24. A method of verifying an identity document, comprising:
forming at least one communication marking on at least a portion of a
perimeter edge surface of the identity document;
25 reading the communication marking; and
based on the reading, determining whether the identity document is the
proper document.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the identity document comprises a plastic card, and comprising reading the communication marking within an input hopper of card processing equipment.

5 26. The method of claim 24, wherein the identity document comprises a plastic card, and comprising reading the communication marking within a card processing module of a modular card processing system.

27. The method of claim 26, comprising reading the communication marking
10 as part of a determination as to whether the card is to be affixed to, or has been properly affixed to, a mailer form.

28. A reader for reading a communication marking provided on at least a portion of a perimeter edge surface of a card, comprising:
15 a housing;
 a slot formed in the housing defining a card path along which at least a portion of the card, including the perimeter edge surface containing the communication marking, can travel;
 a reading area defined in the slot at which the communication marking
20 can be read;
 a light source providing light to the reading area; and
 a light receiver sensing light that has been reflected from the perimeter edge surface.

25 29. The reader of claim 28, wherein the light source is an ultraviolet light source providing ultraviolet light.

30. The reader of claim 29, wherein the light receiver is an ultraviolet light sensor.